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In Springfield on Tour

## Anti-Castro Gun Runner Blames Fidel in Riots

By GEORGE WHITTINGTON

News and Leader Staff Writer

"My name is Cales. I smuggle arms into Cuba."

A 54-year-old Miami, Fla., man with something of the salt in his quiet-spoken personality introduced himself with that startling statement, yesterday, then began to assail Fidel Castro as being responsible for any number of things — including civil rights disturbances in the United States.

Capt. Robert W. Cales, who identified himself as a resident of Cuba for more than 30 years, said he made his last flight to the Communist-dominated island only 12 weeks ago. Now on a "grassroots" speaking tour of the United States, he displayed a book of press clippings from newspapers in Delaware, Illinois, Oklahoma, Arizona, and all over the South.

Declaring himself a spokesman for the "Cuban conservative underground — or Free Cuba Movement — Cales said the aim of that organization is to keep Cuba from falling to any other socialist groups. He branded several of those popularly regarded as being anti-Castro "socialistic" — among them the Popular Revolution Movement.

Core of the conservative groups, he said, is Alpha-66, another of the anti-Castro groups which is fighting Castro. But, he charged, the United States Department and CIA are backing the groups which lean toward

socialism.

Capt. Cales displayed a newspaper clipping with a photograph of himself picketing the White House against such support. "Only one newspaper in Washington would run that picture and story," he claimed.

Cales, who said his blind wife and 10-year-old son were killed by the Castro regime for carrying arms against the Communist dictator, also charged that "the first four boatloads of wheat sold to Russia by the United States went to Cuba. I know this for a fact."

England and Canada are sending in unlimited amounts of goods, including Ford and Chevrolet auto parts which are first sent to Canada, then on to Cuba," he asserted.

Declaring that he lived in Cuba from the early 1930s until Castro took over, Cales said, "I knew Fidel as far back as 1944, when he tried to sell me a bill of goods about Communism."

He charged that Communist money is being sent into New Orleans to be illicitly distributed to the Student Non-Violent Committee in its civil rights fight, and that a raid there only recently on a Communist-front office turned up cancelled checks donated to that cause.

Cales, a native of Fayette County, West Virginia, said he first worked as a seaman out of Havana until he began acquiring his own boats for a fishing and pleasure-craft fleet — all of which was taken over by

Castro after the communist came to power.

He said he operated out of Havana and Santiago.

Charging that "only one" missile ever was removed from Cuba after the crisis of autumn, 1962, Capt. Cales said "more were sent in, as a matter of fact, and within one 3500-mile radius there now are 1100 Russian missiles aimed at the mainland of the United States."

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"Furthermore, in spite of what our State Department and CIA claim, there are 35,000 Russians and 15,000 Red Chinese in Cuba today. I challenge our CIA or our State Department to deny this."

"This I have heard with my own ears," Cales asserted — "small children saying prayers of thanks to Castro for the candy they receive."

When children go to school in the morning, Cales said, "They are given pencil and paper, with the questions written out: 'Who came to your house last night? What food did your parents give them?', in an effort to have the children betray parents who might be trying to help refugees."

Capt. Cales, who was passing through Springfield on his way from Oklahoma into northwest Arkansas, said he expects to return to Springfield next week for possible talks in the area. His scrapbook showed appearances before Lions Clubs, veterans organizations and church groups.